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# THE WHOLESALE DEPARTMENT

— OF —

## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

VOL. VII., No. 4.

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\$1.50 PER YEAR.

### WHOLESALE DEPARTMENT.

WILLIAM HARDING ("COMMODORE ROBIN"), Editor.

## The Decorator and Furnisher.

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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER has a larger circulation than any publication devoted to carpets, upholstery, furniture or interior decoration.

THE Wholesale Department of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER will be devoted to the interests of the leading houses engaged in the wholesale carpet, upholstery, furniture or interior decoration business.

THE Editor of the Wholesale Department of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER will endeavor to reflect the views of the heads of the firms engaged in the businesses it represents.

THE Wholesale Department of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER has not been started as a speculation—a glance at our business columns will show that we are in a flourishing condition.

FOR the Wholesale Department of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER we shall be pleased to receive the advertising patronage and support of the prominent business houses.

### 15,000 COPIES OF THE NEXT ISSUE.

THE Wholesale Department of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER will be distributed throughout the trades, and sworn statements of the publisher, printer and Post Office will be furnished to support our assertions.

WE should like to have the advertisement of every prominent firm in the trades we represent.

### THE TAX ON COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS.

The bill introduced into the Senate by Mr. Platt, designed to exempt traveling salesmen from State and local taxation, is undoubtedly worthy of support, as the policy in several States and cities of levying a tax upon "travelers" is decidedly narrow minded. But there is a great "but" in the matter—Congress has nothing to do in the matter, as far as we can see. The State may tax anything within its jurisdiction—property and persons—so long as this power is exercised in conformity with the Constitution of the United States and that of the State. Of course, any act making a discrimination against citizens of other States would be set aside as unconstitutional; but there is no objection to a statute which imposes a tax upon all commercial travelers, resident as well as non-resident. Much as we should like to see these narrow-minded taxes removed, it is a fact that it can only be done by the States imposing them, as long as they keep within the bounds of the Constitution.

### PROTECTION FOR MANUFACTURERS AND MERCHANTS.

The recent attempt to blow up Sontag & Co.'s silk manufactory on Union Hill, Jersey City, by means of an infernal machine, is only another warning to manufacturers and merchants that it is high time for them to organize a protective association for the purpose of counteracting evils threatened by the increasing power of "Unionists" and other kindred

bodies. Trade unions are all very well in their way, so long as they are formed and conducted upon the basis of assisting members who may be suffering from sickness or want of employment; but when used to support strikers in unfair demands, or force manufacturers and merchants to action that they may not be prepared for under the circumstances governing their businesses, we think that the movement savors too much of socialist doctrine or communistic principle to be met with other than determined opposition. Should it ever come to a regular, pitched battle between Capital and Labor throughout the United States, Labor will undoubtedly get the worst of the fight. In the meanwhile it is time for Capital to take some steps toward organizing for defensive purposes.

### WHAT WE DO NOT DO.

WE do not deal in taffy.

WE do not pretend to know more than the manufacturers themselves.

WE do not guarantee to tack on to every person's name mentioned in these columns some saccharine term that we know to be tiresome.

WE do not believe in peering into the inner trade secrets of a firm, or pumping salesmen to obtain information respecting the private business of a manufacturer or jobber.

### WHAT WE SHALL DO.

WE shall consider our advertisers' interests as our own; listen to any suggestion they may make, and do all in our power to prove that we recognize the fact that in receiving advertisements we enter into a business engagement in which we are expected to honestly carry out our part of the contract—do all in our power to introduce the Wholesale Department of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER into every business house, large or small, in any way connected with the trades we represent.

WE shall always be pleased to receive suggestions or communications that in any way concern the trades.

WE shall endeavor in every way, by square dealing, to earn the support and approval of the trades.

### TO ADVERTISERS.

OUR enemies claim that we circulate among consumers.

WE admit the fact and are proud of it; we are read by many thousands of the best and richest families in the land; but we also reach more first-class retail stores than any other trade paper.

THE Wholesale Department of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER will be sent to every retailer of carpets, upholstery, furniture and decorative articles throughout the country.

### W. & J. SLOANE'S UPHOLSTERY MILLS.

The opening of the new upholstery jobbing department in W. & J. Sloane's establishment will be followed at an early date by another new departure in this line of business. It is understood that this firm will soon select a location for a mill to be used for manufacturing the finest grades of tapestry. All the arrangements are not yet completed for this enterprise, but when definite selections have been made, our readers will receive due notice.

### SUCCESS OF A LACE CURTAIN MANUFACTURER.

Mr. Jas. Alfred Jacoby, of the firm known as M. Jacoby & Co., lace curtain manufacturers, Nottingham, England, was the successful candidate at the election for the Mid. Division of Derbyshire. Mr. Jacoby is a liberal in politics and a great favorite among our lace buyers. Several of our city merchants, including E. B. Fletcher, of W. H. Fletcher & Co., recently cabled their congratulations to the new "M. P."

### W. & J. SLOANE'S UPHOLSTERY JOBBING DEPARTMENT.

By the time this issue of the Wholesale Department of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER reaches our readers, the new upholstery jobbing department of W. & J. Sloane's large establishment will be in full operation, though it has been open to business for some weeks. Mr. E. H. Colman, formerly with the Brussels Tapestry Company, will attend to the New England, Philadelphia, Boston and Washington trades. The firm will make a specialty of fine tapestry.

### ANOTHER NEW ACCOUNT.

The day before Christmas, we are pleased to note, the final arrangements for the transfer of the Brussels Tapestry Company account, to T. J. Keveney & Co., were made, and Mr. T. J. Keveney is now pushing the new goods on the road. An account of the history of the Brussels Tapestry Company will be found on another page.

### CHATS IN THE TRADE.

Storm & Hill, the Chicago dry-goods firm, have opened the New Year with a carpet and upholstery department in their new building.

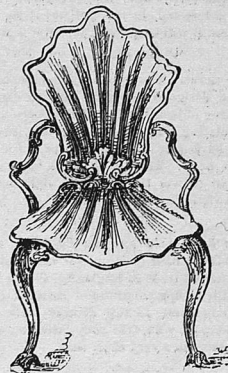
D. E. Morgan & Son, of Buffalo, are about to take in a building facing on two streets, which will give them more than double their now decidedly extensive show-rooms. Other changes are contemplated.

Columbus, Ohio, is a flourishing city, and Messrs. Bowe & Beggs are not slow to take advantage of that fact. They have recently been forced to make an addition, 45 x 100 feet, to their store, which gives them one of the finest show-rooms in the city, if not in Ohio.

It is rumored that Mr. Judd Black, of J. H. Black & Co., is about to go largely into the furniture business, and that he will be obliged to lease the building adjoining the firm's premises in order to sit upon a nuisance.

Credit men and heads of firms are about to enter upon a new era, and defaulting bank cashiers are to be things of the misty past. An enterprising individual has invented a photographic hat. Do you see the utility of it? All you have to do is to—first catch your customer. Then receive him with your photographic hat on; when you get him in the right position, touch the spring and he is neatly photographed in your hat. When he is gone, paste that photo in your Customers' Gallery—and should he take a pleasure trip away from his happy stamping ground, you can keep his memory green by turning a copy of the photo over to the police. In fact, the uses and abuses to which the photographic hat can be put are multitudinous—so much so that I cannot afford the space to enumerate them.

The "Cabriole" legs of the Chippendale chairs suggest all sorts of fancies. Around Christmas time I was dozing calmly as I gazed upon one of these venerable relics. It is depicted below:



Now it may have been the revengeful feelings of the plum pudding or the influence of some other spirit, I know not which; but, strange to say, this was the form that the old "Chip" took, in my imagination, of course:



I think it funny now, but at that time I did not—it cost me two dollars before I regained my composure.

Mr. Wheelock, of Nelson, Matter & Co., tells me that he is getting out new lines of goods for the spring trade, and promises to have some elegant and choice designs.

Among the many people I have run across since my return was Mr. Miller, of Miller Bros., furniture and upholsterers, St. Louis. I find that he has struck a gold mine in the shape of a patent amalgamating machine. I wish him as much success as possible, for he deserves it.

I was recently asked to examine a paper piano-forte brought from Paris, the whole case being manufactured from compressed paper. The tone of the instrument is low and sweet, and, to my taste, preferable to any wooden-framed instrument that has come under my notice.

Mr. Kroh, of H. C. Kroh & Co., the window-shade manufacturers, was recently kind enough to show me through his large Canal Street establishment. According to this gentleman the prospects are bright for a good Spring trade. The new Hoboken factory is turning out some fine goods and the artistic department is in capable hands.

Mr. George W. Holt, of W. T. Mersereau & Co., informs me that the co-partnership existing under the firm name of W. T. Mersereau & Co. has been renewed for the term of five years, commencing January 1; Wm. T. Mersereau, George W. Holt and Frank D. Mersereau compose the firm. The present premises will shortly be enlarged, or a new building erected.

Mr. F. M. Yaeger, of Peter Schneider, Sons & Co., said, in the course of a conversation I had with him that fancy combinations of shades are meeting with much favor, and that brocatelles and satin damasks and all the higher grades of goods were doing well. Embossed plushes were still being used, but their days seem to be numbered, the cheaper plushes now being used altogether. Peter Schneider, Sons & Co. are doing a brisk business.

Soaring into the realms of Arnold, Constable & Co.'s immense building, some days ago, I reached the well appointed upholstery department presided over by Mr. J. H. Whitney. That gentleman being in Europe, and not expected back until the second week in January, I had a pleasing chat with his lieutenant, Mr. G. F. Marvin, who probably knows more about steamship upholstery than any gentleman in the business. Stock-taking was in active progress and preparations being made for the spring trade.

Mr. G. W. Howland, the agent of a leading Providence, R. I., firm, called upon me about a week ago and exhibited a new shade roller. Mr. Howland claims great things for the new roller. The fixings weigh  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. more to the gross, he says, than any others. There is a drilled hole in the right-hand bracket and the spring runs through and is attached to a bobbin. I hear that Mr. Flint, the prominent Providence furniture man is interested in this patent; if so, the trade can rest assured that it will be pushed for all it is worth.

I was recently shown a new loom-shuttle patented by Chas. N. Newcomb, and designed especially for rag-carpet looms. It's a strange-looking object, but bids fair to become popular. It has tension regulating springs projecting into its eye, with a rag receiving can having an open end adapted for placement within the shuttle body. The can holds a large quantity of rags, and is said to deliver the weft with light and uniform tension, without twisting.

The London Cabinet-maker and Art Furnisher, a neat and able sheet, blames the British elections for the "rather sleepy condition" of the carpet trade in England. The C. M. & A. F. is away out. It's the sleepy condition of British carpet manufacturers that is conducive to this rowdy state of affairs. Wake up, gentlemen, or, with free raw materials, we may be knocking at your doors in a very short time.

A wool-washing machine has been patented by Mr. James E. Sinclair, of Waverly, Md., covering improvements in a former machine patented by the same gentleman. The machine has a series of connected receptacles in which the wool is successively treated, the receptacles being combined with one or more pumps for elevating the wool and water, and elevators for returning the water to the place from whence it was drawn.

Mr. R. F. Horner, Mills & Gibbs' curtain expert and manager, was recently telling me of some thrilling experiences he had while in England during the election time. Special policemen, drafted in from the country, he says, were so plentiful and handy with their sticks that the good town of Nottingham was in a state of terror, broken heads being liberally distributed on all sides.

In the course of a recent conversation with Mr. Schlemmer, of the upholstery firm, Hammacher, Schlemmer & Co., I found that the predictions I made some two years or more ago, respecting the brilliant future before American upholstery manufacturers, is rapidly being realized. When I first began booming home products there were many who thought that it was a "little too previous," but the result has thoroughly justified the assertions I made in the interests of home goods. Mr. Schlemmer says that the latter grow in favor, in taps as well as in plushes, silk and mohair; and that plushes are now selling better than any other line.

Passing down Canal Street, recently, I called upon Heywood Bros., the celebrated rattan firm. Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. Walsh, the cashier, I was shown some of the hand-some designs in rattan goods that it has been my luck to set eyes on. Mr. Walsh particularly called my attention to some buckskin upholstery work in subdued shades. The effect is most soft and pleasing, and I shall be mistaken if buckskin upholstery does not form a feature in novel effects in the future. In a quiet corner, hidden by curtains, I saw grouped some exquisite satin-upholstered hand-painted chairs, marvelous works of art they might almost be termed. All the hand-painting is done on the premises.

A prominent business man asked me a short time ago if I could not discover some prevention against forgery. I told him that I would think over the matter and did so. The conclusion that I have arrived at is, that Sir J. W. Herschel's method of identifying prisoners and pensioners, once used in India, might be successfully put in practice here. The distinguished gentleman referred to advocated and used thumb prints as a method of recognition and, it is said, as a sure preventive of desertion. It is a fact that thumb signatures might be made commercially useful. No two thumbs in thousands upon thousands that have been examined, were found alike in lines and curves. Indeed, there is more character in a man's thumb than in his face—the latter changes by age, while years hardly make any difference in the marks on a thumb. There is no reason why thumb marks should not supplement signatures upon deeds and wills, thumb-prints take the place of scrap-books and albums and instead of signing his name to a check, a man need only put his thumb to it.

Did you ever see a baby-minder? No? Then you have a treat in store for you. The apparatus consists of a comfortably stuffed wickerwork baby's chair, with toy-table and foot-rest, mounted on a spiral spring, the latter being actuated by a treadle. The least pressure with one foot suffices to set the spring in motion, by which means the chair and its occupant are moved gently up and down. This contrivance can be arranged so as to accommodate two or three children at the same time. It should prove of great benefit to young mothers.

It may not be novel to everybody, but was so to me when I saw it. It is a music-stool with a back, and the moment my



MUSIC-STOOL WITH BACK.

eyes rested upon it, I exclaimed, "I wonder they did not think of that before!"

Dropping in upon Mr. J. H. Hemphill, of Hemphill, Hamlin & Co., recently, I found that gentleman, as usual, hard at work but willing to exchange greetings with me. Mr. Hemphill stated that profits were getting smaller every year, owing to increasing competition, but that the amount of business done last year was greater than on any previous year. The firm makes a specialty of ingrainings, though doing a fine business in taps and velvet. "The prospects for next season's business," said Mr. Hemphill, "are very healthy. There's no boom; but goods are sold up very close."

After an interval of two years, I met Mr. T. J. Keveney, of T. J. Keveney & Co., carpet and upholstery merchants. It was a genuine pleasure for me. He was kind enough to show me his latest novelties in upholstery and other goods and I was delighted at the progress made in home manufactures, silk taps especially. The new year should show a large increase of business for this firm. Stead & Miller's goods, for which they are agents, are now known as the products of the Nepal Silk Mills. They also do a fine trade in Putnam Brussels, the camel shade being particularly neat and elegant.

I have seen a very pretty circular sent by O. McClintock & Co., of Pittsburgh, and in it an honorable mention of Mr. A. B. Fowler, the upholstery and curtain buyer. The outside of the fly-leaf has an exquisite engraving of an art-room, from Mr. Fowler's pen, and is certainly a credit to that gentleman. "Cupid" Longmire says that it is the prettiest thing he has seen—that settles it, for "Cupid" has handled some of the prettiest.

A patent that will interest carpet and wall-paper men without counting furniture manufacturers, is the chair invented by Mr. Edward H. Lewis, of Nashville, Tenn. This particular chair can be readily converted into a carpet or wall-paper exhibiting frame, a settee, bed or cot, lounge or child's crib. If it can also be converted into money, Mr. Lewis should have a young bonanza.

Mr. G. E. Hamlin, of Hemphill, Hamlin & Co., told me that he considered trade to be in a most healthy condition. Of course I was glad to hear it—as much for his sake as for the trade.

The race of cranks is far from being extinct; but the latest example of erratic wisdom is a Mr. Pratt, an Englishman, who has planned a new method of disposing of dead bodies. Mr. Pratt proposed that the bodies of the dead, instead of being buried in earth or cremated, should be encased in caskets and placed in a concrete slab, seven feet by three feet six inches wide, having a place in the center large enough to receive the coffin. Soft concrete is then to be mixed and filled in around the casket, and a concrete slab, six inches thick, be placed on it. This sarcophagus is then to be banded heavily with iron, and, as fast as they can accumulate, are to be built into a sea-wall to protect the coast of England from the devastations of the sea. I think that Mr. Pratt's idea might be successfully tried in this country with benefit to the carpet trade—for instance, let them bury the Webster-Higgins case, effectively, as proposed by the enterprising Britisher, or encase the "funny man" of the *Carpet Trade and Review* in this concreted manner. He deserves no better fate after that blizzard joke about "pine-needle pillows."

Oscar Wilde's crusades are not as fashionable as they formerly were; but his recent onslaught upon night-dresses is attracting a certain amount of attention. Oscar claims that the shape, material and color of night-dresses require alteration. The subject is a delicate one, and Oscar, as a married man of a year's standing, can hardly be counted an authority upon this matter.

And so friend Clifford is returning to his old love, Kendrick, and will make his headquarters in Philadelphia. I am glad of it; they are a good team; one bright, brilliant and enthusiastic; the other, quiet, plodding and business-like. The intermingling of their respective good qualities has made the *Philadelphia Carpet Trade* what it is—an ornament to journalism. Messrs. Kendrick & Clifford have my sincere sympathy and congratulation upon the renewal of their business relations.

Mr. Geo. W. Eonis is back from the Hot Springs, and, at last accounts, was seeking the seclusion which Dooner's Hotel, Philadelphia, grants—and it grants a considerable amount of that desirable article.

Mr. J. H. C. Nevius and his new partner, E. H. Haviland, both young, handsome and pushing gentlemen, seem likely to build up a first-class business in a very short time.

Mr. W. L. Lundy, manager of John H. Pray, Sons & Co.'s New York salesrooms, deserves great credit for his efforts in behalf of the widow of the late James R. Evans.

I have received a copy of the first issue of the *Dry Goods Chronicle and Fancy Goods Review*, published at 143 Chambers Street, C. H. Applegate, editor. It is a clean, neat and well-edited journal, and is an honor to its publishers. Such wide-awake, progressive enterprise deserves the heartiest support. I predict a brilliant future for the *Chronicle*.

I met Manager A. J. Gates, Cowlishaw, Nicol & Co.'s curtain expert, on Union Square recently. He will show some decided novelties for the season and delight the hearts of visiting buyers.

Mr. George Curtis Wright, with meritorious zeal, continues to turn out choice and new designs for the Worcester Carpet Co. He has turned out some beauties, and, his friends hope, will live to control his artistic department for the next hundred years to come. Mr. Wright has a pumping machine patent on hand, and expects great things of it.

A little bird whispered to me that Mr. W. B. McEnery, of Schlesinger & Meyer, dry-goods, curtains and upholstery, Chicago, is editing an art book of choice curtains and draperies in his spare moments. He is assisted in his work by one of the most prominent artists in Chicago, but whose name I am not at liberty to mention.

Mr. Judd Black, of J. H. Black & Co., Detroit, was being welcomed by a score of friends the last time the Commodore saw him. Messrs. Miller, Hamlin, Wright, Nelson and others were doing the welcoming. The Commodore was only taking notes.

Dunham, Buckley & Co., now have the services of George Squire, and the consequence is that the Highland Mills are adding eight looms on extra spurs to increase his line of those goods. The new carpet jobbers will prosper.



Governor Davis is rushing the Worcester Carpet Co.'s goods. I called on him last week and he tells me that the products of the mill are sold well ahead. Their Brussels and Wiltons have reached a high point of perfection. The firm only sells to the larger trade, and does not run behind the jobbers.

I called upon Mr. Beresford, of Jos. Wild & Co., a few days ago, and noticed their somewhat new departure in Melton rugs. I refer to having the heavy fringe down the side instead of at the ends. Mr. Beresford reports a healthy condition of trade, the "Luster Finish" upholstery felts meeting with special favor.

Riding up Fulton Street, Brooklyn, just before Christmas. I was struck by a, to me, new advertising scheme engineered by a toy dealer. Erected on the roof of his place of business was an imitation chimney, painted to resemble brick-work, from the top of which a man, "made up" to resemble Santa Claus, was continually attracting the attention of the passing crowds, blowing a tin trumpet, exhibiting toys and generally doing his best to advertise the goods of his employers. It occurred to me that it would not be a bad idea to erect such a chimney on top of 335 Broadway and have the Santa Claus journalist who presides on the upper story, distribute his "genial," "veteran," "popular," "well-known," "enterprising," "pushing," "energetic" taffy upon the long-suffering public passing beneath.

Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. T. J. Keveney, I was shown a letter from John Barry, the linoleum and oil-cloth manufacturer, of Kirkcaldy, now, in addition to his other duties, an enthusiastic Nationalist Member of Parliament for the South Division of County Wexford, Ireland. In the course of the missive, Mr. Barry said: "I had charge of the Irish forces in Manchester and London which involved a good deal of talking, and I am now suffering from hoarseness. We have won all along the line and are now masters of the situation (*Deo Gratias*). No human power can now prevent the settlement of the Irish question, and the restoration of our own Parliament. Our good friend John Bull has a profound respect for 'Power and Force.' So long as we were weak and appealed to his sense of justice, John was deaf as a post, but now we are more powerful than the Israelites in Egypt—we can send him so many plagues, that he will be compelled to give us his blessing and let us go from our enforced bondage to our land of promise." I must congratulate Mr. Barry upon his success at the elections and hope that Ireland's dream may be soon realized.

## CARPET JOTTINGS.



MACHINE for sewing looped fabrics has been patented by Mr. Joseph M. Merrow, of Merrow, Conn.

By the time this issue reaches our readers, Mr. Dixon Bean will have retired from the firm of Bean, Hughes & Co., carpet jobbers.

The new firm, Seymour & Shaw, are now placing the final touches upon the improvements made in their quarters at 110 Worth Street.

Asphalted jute is becoming largely used in Germany for covering roofs, isolating damp walls and floors, and preventing bad odors from reaching apartments.

Lyon, Hall & Co. are still making good sales of their "jointless" matting, and Mr. Reune Martin can be counted upon to push their lines for their full value.

Mr. Leedham Binns, of Philadelphia, is hopeful of the future of his recently invented endless band or card for driving the spindles of spinning machines and other machinery. It is tubular plated, united at its ends by each of the ends being inserted bodily and longitudinally in reverse directions to each other within the portion of the body of the band next adjacent to the other end.

Mr. Sheppard Knapp may be congratulated upon his success in business. Not content with his flourishing carpet and upholstery business, he is now presiding over the destinies of the Knapp Rubber Matting and Carpet Binding Company. He has an able coadjutor in Mr. E. H. Bailey, the treasurer of the new concern. Mr. Chas. E. Knapp, the patentee, is enthusiastic over the success of the rubber scheme.

Always bright and smiling is Mr. J. B. Cook, Hadden & Co.'s manager. He has now been twenty-nine years in the business, and looks certain of staying as many more, if he so chooses. Mr. Cook predicts a rise in fine goods, and that the supply will be less than that of last year.

Joseph H. Halliday, of the wholesale dry goods firm of J. H. Wear, Boogher & Co., died in St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 23. He was a native of Missouri and a son of the late John J. Halliday.

Trotlicht & Duncker, St. Louis, are to take in an adjoining building.

The Palmer Carpet Company have declared a dividend of 10 per cent.

A Brussels factory is to be started at Toronto, Canada. Sir John Macdonald, the Canadian Prime Minister, is named in connection with it.

## T. J. KEVENEY & CO.'S NEW ACCOUNT.

The Brussels Tapestry Company has always been a sort of unknown quantity in the market. Its history is as follows: Early in June, 1883, certain rumors were circulated concerning the Hope Mills, of Paterson, N. J., but the rumors died away. Then Mr. E. H. Colman, now of W. & J. Sloane's upholstery jobbing department, became the leading spirit of the mysterious Brussels Tapestry Company, and, in conjunction with Mr. Auer, of the Hope Mills, the organization was completed at the end of June, 1883, a company being formed and operations commenced. At that time Mr. Colliender, the billiard manufacturer; Mr. Lyons, the ivory goods manufacturer, of Bond Street, this city; A. F. Troesch, secretary of the Brunswick-Balke Billiard Table Company; Mr. Colman and Mr. Auer were the gentlemen connected with the company, whose capital stock was only \$5,000. Commencing slowly and surely by the manufacture of a fine line of Florentine silk curtains, the reputation of the company's goods soon became established and their trade increased. In time it was necessary to increase the size of the premises occupied by the mills, and three adjoining buildings were leased. But even this increase did not prove adequate to the demand made upon the mills, so, in May, 1885, the company moved into its present headquarters, 231 to 235 East Forty-second Street. The Brussels Tapestry Company employs about 400 men, has 200 rug looms and 75 power upholstery looms at work, while more are needed and will soon be in position. Mr. Colliender is president of the company, and Mr. Morgan J. O'Brien, the lawyer, who came within an ace of running for District Attorney at the last election, is secretary. Now that the product of the Brussels Tapestry Company is in the hands of T. J. Keveney & Co., they are sure to continue their successful rise into popular favor and may lead all others in their line.

## HOW ROYAL BEDS WERE MADE.

A curious story of the way in which royal beds were made some hundreds of years ago has just been published. Whenever the bed of Henry VII. was made at the Palace of Sheen, it had to be done in the following fashion: "First of all the curtains were to be drawn, and a gentleman usher held them together. Then two Squires of the Body stood at the bed's head, two yeomen of the Crown at the bed's feet, and all the clothes were laid on the carpet until the contents of the palisade were re-made. After this exercise the yeomen had to leap upon the bed and 'reel him up and down' to array the litter. Following this the servitors had to 'lay down the canvas again, then the feather-bed, and beat it well, and make it even and smooth.' The two yeomen afterwards took the fustian and cast it upon the bed without any wrinkles, and the sheet in the same fashion. Finally the yeomen had to beat the pillows and throw them up to the squires to lay them on the bed-head, as might please the King's grace. The bed-clothes were at this point to be brought pretty well up to the pillows, and turned down the space of an ell. In the end, the gracious chronicler says, when all was done, 'the several functionaries engaged withdrew behind the curtain that divided the room, and had a drink all round.'"

## FURNITURE AND UPHOLSTERY ITEMS.



HERE are some excellent samples of Genoa and Frisé silk velvets on the market.

Long or high pile Utrecht velvet of popular shades are meeting with favor.

Stewart Hartshorn's business in East Newark and Short Hills is one of the busiest in New Jersey.

The old furniture firm of Craig, Davis & Co., Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, will henceforth be known as the Wyoming Furniture Company. The capital stock is \$50,000.

With the New Year, the window-shade business of the new firm of Casse, Lackey & Co. commences. They have a neat line of goods, a "spider web" pattern being especially appropriate and catching.

A "sleeper's guard" is among the new inventions. One or more horizontal slats are attached to two upright bars, which are intended to be placed between the edges of the mattress and the side pieces of the bedstead or berth. There are further advantages claimed, but our space is limited.

Iron and brass bedsteads first began to find their way into the houses of the middle and upper classes, in Europe, about half a century ago. Since then they have gradually grown in popularity, and of late years in this country have greatly advanced in favor.

Some pretty black-and-gold fancy chairs, having spring seats and head-rests, are attracting attention. There is a special point of recommendation in these pieces of furniture—they can be folded up into a small compass, and are thus well adapted for shipping.

The firm of M. P. Dunbar & Co., lumber merchants, 25 William Street, this city, and also doing business in New Haven, Conn., under the name of Fogg, Dunbar & Co., announced their suspension Dec. 26. It is said that the failure was precipitated by the collapse of Mr. C. Huyett, of Detroit.

Joseph Hobson & Sons, the largest lumber dealers in Biddeford, Me., who had been forced to shut down, recently offered to settle with their creditors in full, the amount payable in one, two, three, four and five years. Dr. Hastings, of Freyburg, and other creditors, however, placed a \$12,000 attachment on the property and bankruptcy was expected as the result.

The revival of the forms of furniture in use during the classical periods of French decorative art has made necessary the use of brass and brass mouldings in the ornamentation of the same. In that connection I wish to mention Mr. George Huttling, the carver and modeler, who, as a well-known manufacturer of wood, carved brass mouldings and other goods of the same class, is at all times able to supply cabinet-makers and manufacturers of antique furniture with any description of brass mouldings they require.

Linings and flutings for marquetry and inlaid work of every description are kept in stock, and the variety of patterns in all forms of mouldings (quarter round, half round, O. G., &c.) number at least one hundred.

Chenille embroideries, most closely imitating handwork of nature, are the latest novelties for decorative purposes.

In the ornamentation of portières, lambrequins, mantel cloths, curtains, and every kind of draperies, these embellishments are at once handsome, effective, and can be had for a reasonable price.

From the three hundred shades of chenille the most delicate gradations of color can be obtained, and the blending of shades, when done by an artistic hand, is very harmonious and attractive. Work of this kind is shown in running vines, rose branches and fac-similes of other flowers, and can be attached to felt, velvet, silk or any material.

These goods are introduced by Mr. Samuel Green, manufacturer of upholstery trimmings, and similar goods, who has given much attention to their production, and parties in the trade are assured of their superior beauty and practical value.

This firm are also extensive manufacturers of appliqué flowers in chenille, satin, silk and combinations of them—decorations that are used as center-pieces, to embellish screens and general fancy work; the line of tassels they produce are other successful examples of the artistic taste which pervades home decorative work.

At least five hundred different patterns have been brought out in chenille, velvet, tinsel, &c., &c.

Tassels in natural wood (of which this house are exclusive makers) make it possible to match the drapery trimmings in a room to the natural wood finish of the apartment. These tassels are far superior in style and durability to the ordinary fancy and oftentimes worthless trimmings that have been so much in vogue.

Replevin proceedings have been instituted against P. McMahon, the Brooklyn furniture and carpet dealer, who recently failed.

Mr. A. E. Barnes has purchased Nos. 198 and 200 Canal Street, from Mr. M. E. Kingman. Price \$125,000.

The New Jersey Furniture Company, Jersey City, assigned December 29, and will probably pay fifty cents on the dollar.

J. & J. Dobson have secured the patent right, for this country, of Leach, Heaton & Bentley's double plush loom.

Mr. M. L. Abrams' affairs, as far as his Bowery establishment is concerned, seem to denote that the creditors will not be sat down upon. E. S. Higgins & Co., H. B. Claflin & Co., W. & J. Sloane, Theodore W. Bailey & Co., Hemphill, Hamlin & Co. and J. W. Dimmick are among the creditors who propose to fight it out if it takes all winter and summer.

Passavant & Co. will shortly occupy their enlarged premises, two buildings fronting on Lispenard Street. The upholstery department will be greatly enlarged.

The annual banquet of the New England Furniture Exchange took place December 22. Charles H. Gilman presided.

## A GHASTLY TABLE.

THE MOST REMARKABLE PIECE OF FURNITURE IN THE WORLD  
—COMPOSED OF PETRIFIED HUMAN HEARTS, INTESTINES AND EYES.

Probably the most horrible and ghastly piece of furniture ever conceived, will be shown at the exhibition of the Franklin Institute, this year. The table is now in the Palazzo Pitti, Florence, Italy, and is the work of Guiseppi Sagatti, who was several years engaged in its construction. The material was drawn from about a hundred human corpses, and the table consists of a circular top resting upon a pedestal with four supports representing claws. The face of the table is about three feet in diameter and appears to be a fantastic but artistic work in marble, though, in reality, it is composed of the hearts, livers, muscles and intestines of the human body. The weird craftsman who originated this singular piece of furniture has been dead for many years and his work was completed half a century ago, the last corner of the table committing suicide over it before it was secured for the Palazzo Pitti.

Sagatti spent several years in perfecting a system of petrification and succeeded in discovering a process whereby the natural animal reaction in a corpse after death could be changed to mineral reaction by first securing immunity from decay by an embalming process, and afterward immersing the body in a bath where it absorbed silicic particles. For the purpose of a practical illustration of the method and its results he set about making the table. The corpses necessary for the purpose were obtained from one of the hospitals. The intestines were used in the construction of the ornamental pedestal, and, having been pressed into shape, were petrified. The claws of the table were formed from the hearts, livers and lungs, which still retain the appearance of live flesh. The leaf of the table was composed of the larger muscles of the body artistically arranged together to form the desired effect. The table was intended to be highly ornamental, and though nothing was to be used in its construction but parts of the human body, the mind that first conceived it was not at a loss to find means of ornamentation. A hundred pairs of eyes or more and as many pairs of ears were petrified and artistically arranged around the edges. The effect was the most blood-curdling that could be imagined. The process succeeded in preserving the eyeballs in their natural state, so that after polishing they retained their color and general ante-mortem appearance with an intensified brilliancy. This completed the task of the savant. He was proud of the result of his labors. The test of his process of petrification was eminently successful. He communicated his method to the medical world, but naturally it never became generally adopted, though it was well understood by surgeons and physicians.

## A CURIOUS STORY.

There is a curious story attached to the remarkable piece of furniture. Before it was deposited in the Palazzo Pitti it was in possession of a Florentine gentleman named Giacomo Riccabocca. It was the central piece of furniture in his drawing-room and he delighted to exhibit it to his friends, at first speaking of it only as a grotesque piece of handicraft, the work of a mad sculptor, and subsequently, turning down the lights to add effect to the recital of its real history. One Christmas he had several guests from a distance. Early in the evening they sat down around the ghastly table and began a game of *écarté*. Play was heavy and it had continued for several hours. The wax tapers cast a dim light over the scene and caused the eyes of stone which caught its rays to assume a ghastly glitter. Riccabocca was a heavy loser. He was noticed to be very pale, often shuddered and repeatedly wiped his brow, on which the cold sweat was plainly visible. He gave less attention to the cards than any of the others, and frequently turned his gaze upon two of the eyes at the edge of the table opposite him.

At last he rose and paced the room excitedly. But the ornamentation of the table seemed to fascinate him, and he kept his looks fixed on it. At last he sat down, and, despite the advice of his friends, who could not understand what was the matter, insisted on resuming play. Still his eyes were fixed on the ghastly rim of the table. He bet his money recklessly and played his cards as carelessly.

"Change your seat: that one is unlucky," said one of the guests.

"No, I cannot," was the reply, in a plaintive tone.

The guest covered the horrible eyes on the table with his arms, but Riccabocca pleaded for him to uncover them, and began talking excitedly.

"I have not yet told you the truth about this table," he said. "Perhaps you will not believe me. Those parts of the human body which you see and fancy to be the fantastic work of a sculptor are not natural stone. This claw is not of marble. It is the heart of a woman turned to stone. Those eyes are not of glass. These are vitrified eyes of men. To-night, sitting here, those two eyes became brilliant with the light of life and fixed their gaze on me. They burned into my inmost being, but I was so fascinated that I could not look away. Their uncanny glitter seems to reach my very soul. They will affect me through eternity. I cannot stand it. They will drive me mad."

He seized an old dagger from where it hung on the wall. Before any of his guests could interfere to prevent his design he plunged it in his breast and fell dying in the arms of his friends.

"I escape them at last," were his last words. The blood welling up in his throat choked further utterance, and he lay dead beside the table.

His heirs were only too glad to accept the liberal offer of the governors of the palace for a relic which would have ever been a ghastly reminder of the manner of their inheritance.

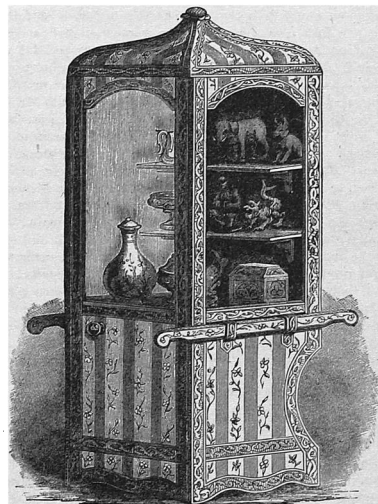
## GAUM LIFE IN INDIA.

By the time this issue reaches our readers, the latest craze will be well developed in London. It is no less than another "Village," this time, life in India, instead of Japan, being illustrated. Gaum is the term given to villages in certain parts of India, and fifty skilled artisans and entertainers were sent for

to practically show in workshops as much like their own as skill and experience can make them, the modes in which they carry on their industries. There will be carpet-weavers, mat-makers, metal-workers, rug-makers, and a number of real "Nautch Girls" and snake charmers. It's the old story of Mahomet and the mountain; not being able to go to Japan or India, the enterprising Londoners bring Japan and India to their own doors.

## THE SEDAN CHAIR CABINET.

At the first glance the subject of our illustration, a sedan chair cabinet, may not seem very attractive, but nicely ranged in the corner of a half-darkened room, it has a most pleasing



effect. The Mandalay, a specimen of this curious ornament, prepared by Sypher & Co. for a holiday present, was fitted up with a number of curios from Burmah, including a sacred elephant and an equally revered bull.

## VEGETABLE LACE.

How many Colonists of even old standing are aware that there is a lace-producing tree in New Zealand? A tree, which, when the outer bark is stripped off, presents to view a fibrous network resembling lace. This in its turn can be peeled away, and by women of an ingenious turn of mind, utilized for ornamental purposes. A favorite use to which it has been put is that of bonnets; in the exhibition there is a specimen of one, made, I believe, in Nelson. Like many more exhibits, unfortunately, there is no name visible. In Nelson the tree is very common, and as a consequence little value is attached to its natural lace, though at one time "bark bonnets" were quite the fashion in that pretty district. It is to be regretted that it was not deemed worth while to show more of the lace-bark as it was stripped from the parent tree; as it is, the exhibit is an interesting one.

## FOREIGN NOTES.

The Addeston Linoleum Company has opened show-rooms at No. 4 Holborn Viaduct, London.

G. W. Lupton, a wool merchant of Bradford, England, failed December 21. Liabilities, \$300,000.

Mr. Charles F. Keeling, head of the brass-foundry firm of Hipkiss & Co., Birmingham, England, is dead.

Henry Bond & Son, decorators, etc., London, England, have dissolved. Henry Bond, Jr., will continue the business.

Worrall & Hunter, mat manufacturers, of Ponder's End, England, have dissolved; the business continues as Worrall & Co.

C. Longbottom, of Bradford, England, has applied for a patent for "a new or improved reel for wrapping and holding pile fabrics."

Mr. John Everard Barton, long associated with the Kidderminster carpet trade, died recently at his residence, Astley Hall, near Stourport.

Hendry, Whyte & Strachan, linoleum and floor cloth manufacturers, of Kirkcaldy, have been awarded the Gold and Silver Medals at the Paris Exhibition.

Mr. Edward Crossley, the carpet manufacturer, of Halifax, England, has been elected Member of Parliament for the Sowerby division of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

The loss caused by the destruction of the Heathfield Carpet Works, Hawkhill, Dundee, Scotland, is said to have been greater than at first announced. \$600,000 will hardly cover the damage done by the fire. Messrs. Paterson & Co., the owners, are already taking steps to rebuild on the same spot. Over 500 workers were thrown out of employment.

Mr. Angus Holden, of Isaac Holden & Son, Bradford, England, is another of the lucky Englishmen. He has been returned as Liberal Member for Bradford, East division.

C. S. Wardle & Co., lace manufacturers, of Nottingham, England, have removed their London warehouse from Milton Buildings, Watling Street, to No. 88, in the same thoroughfare.

Gourlie & Barnett, upholstery trimming manufacturers, Glasgow, Scotland, have dissolved, as regards the trustees of the deceased Mr. Archibald Barnett. Mr. Thos. Gourlie continues the business.

Moscow's new cathedral covers 73,000 feet of ground and cost \$12,000,000. Nine hundred pounds of gold were used in decorating its five cupolas. The largest door weighs thirteen tons and cost \$310,000.

It seems likely that the idea of having four courts fitted up with exhibits representing the furniture of different periods of Scottish history at the approaching International Exhibition of Industry, Science and Art, at Edinburgh, Scotland, may fall through. Should such be the case, it is to be regretted, as the suggestion was an admirable one.

Some Englishmen, connected with the kindred trades, were unsuccessful at the late elections—others were luckier. The following are entitled to write M. P. after their names: Mr. J. Brinton, carpet manufacturer, for Kidderminster; Mr. F. W. Grafton, calico printer, for Accrington division, Lancashire; and Mr. Pryce Jones, flannel manufacturer, for Montgomery district—the latter being a new member. Mr. Samuel Morley, it should be remembered, has declined to be put again in nomination.

Bruce Joy, the English sculptor, has recently patented a material which, it is claimed, is a good substitute for marble. This latest substitute is said to be a beautifully white crystalline material, so closely resembling some tints of Carrara marble that it requires an expert to distinguish the difference. This reminds me that we have not heard any further details respecting the two-thousand acre marble quarry recently re-discovered in the province of Oran, Algeria. These quarries had been lost to the trade for hundreds of years, but are now said to be again in operation. The deposit contains Giallo Antico, Breccia and Cipoline, besides black and white marble. These stones can be wharfed at Oran at about one dollar a cubic foot.

Manufacturers of paper-hangings in England report an average amount of business. The outward trade is not as animated as could be wished. During the month of October, there was shipped to foreign ports 3,080 cwt., valued at £3,116, as compared with 3,978 cwt., valued at £10,243, in the same month last year. The outward trade for the ten months shows also a slight decline, both in quantity and value, the respective totals having been 48,435 cwt., valued at £133,353 against 50,592 cwt., valued at £136,638, in the corresponding period of last year.

## Bigelow Carpet Co.,

ORIGINAL POWER-LOOM MANUFACTURERS OF



## CARPETS.

The Carpets made by this Company have received the highest award wherever exhibited, including Gold Medals at the Paris Exposition, 1878, and at the Centennial, 1876.

Their deserved reputation for excellence of fabric, richness and durability of color, novelty and beauty of design, has led to frequent infringements, and inferior goods have often been palmed off in their stead. For the protection of the public the Company has adopted as a trade-mark the word

"BIGELOW,"

which will be woven (at every repeat of the pattern) in white capitals into the back of the fabric.

Customers will therefore have merely to examine the back of a carpet to be certain they are getting the genuine Bigelow Wiltons, or Body Brussels.

THESE GOODS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ALL  
FIRST-CLASS DEALERS.